

Torrance High Class of '52 to Graduate This Evening

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24 PAGES

Find Girls 2 Days Later:

BOYS BEATEN IN BLOODY BEACH 'BOOGIE BATTLE'

Graduation Exercises To Fill Day

Graduation exercises are scheduled this afternoon and evening at four elementary schools and at the high school. The exercises will be conducted at 2 p.m. at North Torrance and Perry Elementary schools. At Seaside Elementary the exercises will be held at 5 p.m. They are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. at Torrance Elementary. The cap and gown ceremony at the high school will start at 8 p.m. on the athletic field. Graduation exercises at Waleria and Greenwood Elementary schools were conducted last night.

Afraid to Go Home Girls Tell Police

A battle with a hot boogie beat for background music at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club Sunday afternoon ended with five youths severely beaten and bloody. Two teenage girls who attended the fiasco disappeared from the dance and were not found until two days later. The beef started during a red-hot jam session at the local club and ended with one youth in Harbor General Hospital with a crushed skull, another with four teeth missing and three others suffering from puffed and bleeding lips. Skull Smashed In the hospital in serious condition with a basal skull fracture is Arthur H. Bernell, 22, of Redondo Beach. In need of a new set of dentures is 17-year-old Robert H. Tourlet, of 14 Portuguese Bend Rd., Rolling Hills. Mum as a tombstone as to what started the gang fight are three other youths, banged up in the slugfest. They are Robert G. Hawley, 18, and Arthur M. Johnson, 21, both of Hermosa, and George M. Ames, 20, of Santa Barbara. Six Torrance police officers summoned to the scene were able only to report that the boys said: "We were jumped by a gang of guys," after talking

to the beaten and bloody dancers. Shortly after "Big Jay" McNeely, noted Negro saxophone artist and his jazz band packed away their instruments, a missing persons report on two 15-year old girls was sent out from the Gardena Police Department. Sped Away in "Rod" The girls were last seen at the beach club when they got into a hot-rod with five youths and drove away. Detective Lt. Roy Tracy, Gardena and Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton, Torrance, acting on a tip, found the girls hiding out in a run-down trailer near 235th St. and Arlington Ave. "We got into a fight with the boys after we left the dance, so we got out of the car somewhere on Avalon Blvd.," they told detectives. "We were afraid to go home because it was late, so we stayed with a girl friend of ours who lives in the Pueblo. The next night we stayed with a friend and his wife in the trailer where you found us."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO TOP MEETING

Annual election of officers will highlight the dinner meeting of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce this evening at 7:30 at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club. Marvin Goetsch is the lone candidate for the presidential job of the Junior Chamber, and Ed Karlow will be opposed by Warren Perry for election to a state director's post. Karlow presently holds the job. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at tonight's election, with balloting to follow.

Special Permit To Hold Tent Meetings Upheld

Evangelistic services in a tent at 18521 Crenshaw Blvd. which open Monday evening were newly closed by the City Council Tuesday evening when a letter protesting that the tent had been illegally raised in an R2 (two-family residential) zone was presented. After a lengthy discussion during which it was pointed out that the meetings were scheduled to be held for two weeks only, and that the Council had approved the request for the meetings subject to the approval of the city departments concerned, and that the proper approval had been received, it was moved to allow the meetings to continue. Mayor Mervin M. Schwab cast the deciding vote for the meetings when Councilmen Drale and Benstead voted yes and Councilmen Spelman and Blount voted no. The meetings, featuring Evangelist Dale Aycock, are sponsored by the Narbonne Baptist Church.

Chamber of Commerce Bill Action Delayed

A bill of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce for advertising during the months of April, May, and June was referred to the next agenda meeting by the City Council Tuesday evening.

Home, Garage Swept By Roaring Blaze

Fed by tinder-dry grass and oily eucalyptus leaves, a fire raced across a 20-acre field spreading to a home, a garage and several chicken sheds in North Torrance before it finally was quelled by firemen Monday afternoon. Believed started by firecrackers thrown into a grassy field, the flames quickly gained momentum in front of a 25-mile-per-hour wind and ignited eucalyptus trees which surrounded a block-long stretch of homes on 166th St. near Gramercy Pl. Completely destroyed was a home belonging to Dr. Grace McCleary, 2084 W. 166th St.; a garage owned by A. P. Samonoff, 2052 W. 166th St., was burned as well as several small sheds in the rear of the Samonoff home. Total loss for the blaze was set at \$10,500. Firemen from the North Torrance fire station were first to reach the scene. Flames already were licking at a rear bedroom of the McCleary house and had spread into the Samonoff garage. In a matter of minutes the raging grass fire threatened to engulf the entire block of some seven homes. Residents were ordered to their rooftops by firefighters, where protective streams of water were played on the shingle roofs. Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Benner ordered three Torrance fire

Fall Bruises Young Student

Treated by a private physician for severe contusions of the back yesterday noon was young Elaine Dorn, of 16637 Eastwood, a student at the Perry Elementary School. Elaine was rushed by F&M Ambulance to the office of Dr. Rodney Stetson after she fell from a gym bar at the school. Following an examination, which included x-rays, she was released to her parents.



CAPT. HAROLD PHILLIP JENSEN ... Sea Career Suddenly Ends

Phil Jensen Dies Death of Young Father Mourned

Captain Harold Phillip Jensen, who a few years ago at 26 years of age was this nation's youngest merchant ship captain, was buried yesterday in Green Hills Memorial Park looking down upon the ship-filled bays and inlets of the busy Los Angeles Harbor. He was 33. The youthful sea captain died Sunday afternoon of a heart attack. Stone and Myers were in charge of arrangements. Captain Jensen became this country's youngest sea captain in 1945 when he was given command and made captain of the Liberty Ship "Otis Skinner." After the war the merchant sailor left the sea, went to work at National Supply Co. while he converted a 52-foot water taxi to a pleasure fishing boat—the "Linda Lee," now operating out of Redondo Beach. Held Unlimited License His master's license indicated he was qualified to sail any vessel of any tonnage, whether steam or motorship, on any of the seven seas. The Jensen family is well known in Torrance. His wife is Mrs. Maxine Jensen, a former president of the Torrance Junior Woman's Club and current president of the Christian Woman's Fellowship. There is one child, Carolyn, who is five. Father-in-law of the merchant mariner is Carl D. Steele, a member of the Torrance Board of Education, who is part owner of the "Linda Lee." Became Ill Friday Jensen became ill at his home, 1314 Hickory Ave., last Friday. A more severe attack followed the next day, and he was sent to Torrance Memorial Hospital. He died there last Sunday afternoon. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, and came to Torrance in 1930. He received his high school education at Torrance High School and served as student body president in 1935, his sen-

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FINAL WEEK BLUES ... What with final exams galore in this, the last week of school at Torrance High, study time is a real necessity. But what a job—with visions of beach days ahead interfering with Spanish lessons. Betty Martinez, left, and Yolanda Goldsmith are only freshmen, but man, they say they'll really be glad to see tomorrow roll around—the last day of school. (Herald Photo by Dick Friess)

Council Acts to Buy New City Dump Site

Action to purchase the 15-acre dump site north of Torrance Blvd. at Madrona Ave. from the Del Amo Estates for \$45,000 was taken by the City Council Tuesday evening when the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens that the money be placed in escrow was approved. The purchase, it was pointed out, was contingent upon approval of the site by the State of California Water Pollution Control Board. The City Manager reported that investigators had approved the site with conditions which were well within the city's plans of operation, and that

their findings would be presented to the board next Thursday. Acquisition of the new site will mean the closing of the present dump south of Plaza Del Amo between Western Ave. and Border Ave. in the near future, officials pointed out. The present dump site has been filled to near capacity and plans to convert it into a municipal park have been discussed for several years.

Salaries Upped For School Administrators

Acting to bring the salaries of school administrators in line with other school districts of comparable size, the Torrance Board of Education at its last meeting raised the salaries of the superintendent and the business manager. Raised from \$11,200 to \$12,000 was the salary of Dr. J. H. Hill, superintendent. The salary of the assistant superintendent, Emmett Ingrum, who is also the business manager, was raised from \$8,900 to \$9,500 per year. Both officials were granted \$40 monthly car allowance.

School Bonds Sold Easily

Bids of the Security National Bank representing a number of bonding companies were accepted Tuesday morning for the Torrance Unified School District Bonds voted by Torrance voters last February. The bonds were sold at a rate of 2 1/2 per cent and brought a premium of slightly over \$23,000, according to Emmett W. Ingrum, business manager for the district. The rate was up slightly over the previous bond sales, Ingrum said, but the premium more than offset the higher rate.

Gasoline, 1100 Gallons of It, Gone From Tank

Police yesterday were checking with service station manager Wayne A. Morse to determine where 1100 gallons of gasoline have disappeared from underground storage tanks at 2056 W. Carson St. Morse reported to officers that an inventory of gasoline indicated that he was from 1000 to 1500 gallons short. He is checking to determine if the tanks possibly are leaking.

Palo Alto	\$15,000
Lynwood	\$14,000
Culver City	\$12,700
Arcadia	\$13,000
Inglewood	\$12,500
Glendale	\$13,500
Montebello	\$13,000
Riviera	\$12,000
Santa Monica	\$15,000
San Marino	\$13,000
Teacher salaries throughout the district were raised \$250, bringing a total increase granted this year to \$400.	

Other Purchases Made Acting on other recommendations of the City Manager, the Council approved purchase of a Garwood load-packer trash truck to cost approximately \$9,500; a five cubic yard dump truck to cost approximately \$3800; a four passenger sedan for the Police Department to cost about \$2000; a stripping machine and stripper with head dispenser to cost about \$1100; a second-hand Hardie Spray Rig, to cost \$2000; a Toro professional mowing machine for \$1200; and 1000 feet of 2 1/2-inch fire hose to cost about \$1900. Stevens pointed out that increased revenues to the city in added in-lieu taxes from the motor vehicle tax and the continued high building activity made the purchases possible.

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